

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

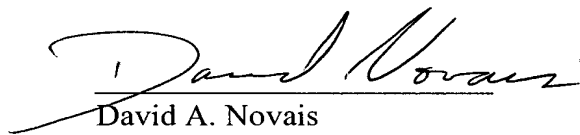
Claims 18-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-17 and 39 have been cancelled by the present amendment.

In the Advisory Action dated September 2, 2004, the final rejection of claims 1-14, 17 and 39 was maintained. As further noted in the Advisory Action, Claims 18-35 were indicated as being allowable.

In order to expedite the allowance of the present application, the present response cancels claims 1-17 and 39. Therefore, allowed claims 18-35 remain pending in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the original or cancelled claims by way of a continuation application.

In view of the forgoing comments a notice of allowance indicating the allowance of pending claims 18-35 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Novais", is written over a horizontal line.

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